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**The Iowa Blind History Archive
History of Blindness in Iowa - Oral History Project
Interview with [Name]
Conducted by [Name]
[Date]
Transcribed by [Name]**

NOTE: Any text included in brackets [] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.

**Dorothy Bryant, over 103-years-old, Perry, Iowa
Lance Blas
Perry, Iowa
5-26-10**

Lance Blas: I have some questions that we would like to ask you, but I think it would also be really neat if you just kind of told your story as well; like the last time I talked to you? Talk about your experience how you came to work at

the Department. I remember you said that you had been doing secretarial work, I believe, and that you had heard about the job at the Department?

Dorothy Bryant: I worked for the talking books from the beginning.

Blas: Oh, you did.

Bryant: Aha.

Blas: How were the talking books made when you first started there?

Bryant: How were they made?

Blas: Yeah, what format were the talking books in when you first started at the Department?

Bryant: It was '75 wasn't it? I don't know.

Blas: Was it record?

Bryant: Yeah. Before Mr. Jernigan came in 1858 [1958] Iowa had no library for the blind. They had to get their books from Illinois.

Blas: Okay, so the books came from Illinois before.

Bryant: And, they were not, it was not very satisfactory. And, that was the first thing after buying the building Mr. Jernigan wanted was the library. He called the Library of

Congress and asked them to recommend the best librarian for the blind that they knew of, and they recommended Florence Grannis from Seattle, Washington. And so, Mr. Jernigan interviewed her and liked her and wanted to hire her. She was willing to come to Iowa, but she was taking a degree in library science in California and she still had three months to go. So, she came with the stipulation that she had three months off that first summer. Then she needed a secretary and they asked for people to apply and one who applied was Carolyn Edwards, just a recent graduate from high school in Creston. And, she liked, Mrs. Grannis liked Carolyn, and hired her.

Then they had to have someone that would take Mrs. Grannis' place those three months that she would be away, and they called me from the business bureau in Des Moines. I was working at the Carnegie library in Perry, and they asked if I would be interested and I said, "No, I don't have the education. All I have is a high school education and I wouldn't..." And they said, "Well, but we know you've had experience and we'd like to interview you." Do you want me to keep talking?

Blas: Absolutely!

Bryant: They named to me what was a fabulous salary, that was more than what I could make in Perry and that was a challenge. I had an older brother that I valued his opinion. I was 57-years-old and he said, "Dorothy, its time you're letting down instead of taking on more work." He said, "I don't think you should try it." I went out...I had just one son and I went out to see him and his wife and they had a little 8-year-old grand-daughter of mine that was the joy of my life.

And, I told them about this opportunity. I didn't think I wanted to take it and they said, my son said, "That's up to you, Mother. It's your decision, whatever you decide." But, I could feel that he would be disappointed in me if I didn't take that challenge.

Blas: Your son?

Bryant: And so, next morning I did go for the interview in Mr. Jernigan's office with Mrs. Grannis, the two of them; just one question after another. Some I could answer and a lot of them I could not. But, because they had interviewed others and because I'd had some experience they wanted to hire me.

Well, there was to be a district meeting. There are district meetings at the libraries and there was to be one in three weeks, and they asked if they could get my decision and I said, "Yes, I'd be ready by then." Went back and told my library, the head librarian at the Perry library. And, there was a replacement that came and helped out sometimes and she would like the job. And, the Board of Trustees of the library said I had a three week vacation coming, why didn't I take two weeks of that vacation and try it?

Blas: Oh, so you tried it just to see how you would like it?

Bryant: Yes. And they said, "If you don't like it you can come back here. We will give you a raise, but not like you'd be making." Well, I was working...I would be working more hours in Des Moines. But, I did go down, and that first morning Mrs. Grannis called me into her office and she said, "Now, we're here to work. It's not a social atmosphere.

We're here to work." Well, that sounded alright to me. Then Carolyn Edwards and I started working with Mrs. Grannis. The last part of May I was not there, when they sent the first book out in early May, but I was the rest of the month. Anyway, when Mrs. Grannis left, both Mrs. Grannis called me in...why; I told that, excuse me. But anyway, when Mrs. Grannis left there were four of us; Carolyn, who had to take care of the correspondence mainly because I did not type, and together we worked it out; and two men, one whose name was Barret something, he had the Braille library.

Blas: So, he was in charge of the Braille books?

Bryant: And, I think the other man's name is Morris. I don't remember, but I'm sure Carolyn Schumann, now, can tell you his name when you talk with her. We got along. We were all congenial and got along fine, and got the books out. I think it probably was about the first of August; Mr. Jernigan decided that even with the talking books the blind in Iowa deserved a chance to have magazines. And so, he hired another person, and her name is Rosella Ralston, and she was one of these happy-go-lucky people that put a lot of life into the library. But, we had to be careful, because we were not supposed to socialize. It was hard not to.

Blas: It was all business at the Department then.

Bryant: And, once in a while a few times we were reprimanded, but we'd get along. But anyway, when Mrs. Grannis came back on the first of September she asked me to go out for dinner that evening with her to hear about how I felt about the summer. And, I was glad to go with her. We

had a nice dinner together and then she asked me about my family and I was very surprised, but I was always happy to talk about my family. I knew she was recently divorced. She had a daughter and three sons, and the daughter and two of the sons came in Des Moines with her and went to school in the Des Moines schools, and the other boy stayed with his father. But, from that day on Mrs. Grannis and I became friends. And, the tape that I sent you of her farewell, when she left to get married, we still, I couldn't write. My eyesight was going. She had diabetes. She was a bad diabetic. She was 17-years younger than me. We became very good friends and took trips together, including one to the British Isles. But anyway, up until the very last we were friends. And, this Carolyn Schumann was visiting me one afternoon and I said, "Let's call." We were not allowed to call each other by our first names in Mr. Jernigan's library. But I said, "Let's call Florence and we'll both talk to her." And anyway, the telephone rang and a man's voice came on and said, "Sorry, but she's not available right now." And, he left a place for me to leave a message and he told me on the message that he was Christopher. I knew he was the youngest son and he said, "Mother died May 11th." And, it was such a shock, because we were such good friends at the very last.

15:00

Blas: What year was that?

Bryant: One thing I skipped over that I should have told about Mr. Jernigan and the library. We were not allowed to call each other by our first names. We were Mr. or Mrs.

And, we had to, the ladies, were not allowed to wear slacks. We had to wear skirts and they must come below the knee, preferably the calf, and couldn't have any bare skin showing. So, we had to wear nylon hoes, too, and skirts. But, that was his rules and regulations. I've talked way too much.

Blas: No, you're doing great! This story is fascinating. I was wondering...

Bryant: You don't have to use it anyway. That's my...And, it was a wonderful opportunity for me. Mr. Jernigan had apartments built. He had one, he had two on the fourth floor, one for Mrs. Grannis, a small apartment, and one for himself and his wife, Anna Catherine. And, then on the fourth floor he had bedrooms for the male students, and Mr. Witte had an apartment up there. Mr. Witte was in charge of the white cane walking movement. And, there was a Mabel Nading that taught the blind how to use the typewriter and the Braille writer. And, they had a five-room apartment on the third floor, just a regular apartment. And, they hired Ruth Schroeder to show and teach the blind how to do ordinary home/house-work; how to measure things and follow recipes, how to do the laundry and just general way to keep themselves living.

One year, the National convention was in New York and the Iowa delegation went. And, while they were there, there were people blind from all over the world. There was a lady doctor from India. There was a Senator from Pakistan, and different parts. And, they asked where was the best place in Iowa to learn about being blind. And, without, every answer was Iowa. So, we had them with us for three months.

Blas: So, they were at the Department for three months?

Bryant: Yes. And, it was just a wonderful experience for me.

Blas: What floor was the library on when you started?

Bryant: The library was on the fourth floor.

Blas: And, what did it look like then?

Bryant: Well, there were the...On the right side was the Braille library. There were two rooms on the fourth floor and some down on third for the Braille. The Library of Congress sent Braille books to the Des Moines library by the semi-truck loads. Then, on the right side was the stacks for the talking books.

Blas: The talking books, you say, were on record at that time?

Bryant: They were all on records. And, I had a space in the center between both the Braille and the talking books were, with the card file and all. I sent out the talking books.

Blas: Oh, so you were in charge of sending out the talking books.

Bryant: Huh?

Blas: You were in charge of sending out the talking books at the time.

Bryant: Yes, yes I was. And, our hours are from nine until five in the afternoon. And, at first when I first went we worked at night, too, but. And, I was supposed to learn Braille and I started, but I was too busy sending out talking books. They let me drop that, and then they dropped the night work and hired help to work at nights, instead of our day time.

Blas: How do you think having a library at the Department changed the Department?

Bryant: Well, education was most important to Mr. Jernigan, and he thought that the libraries for the blind gave them opportunities to try to be equal to the sighted. And, he was pleased with the results. He and Mrs. Grannis drove all...Mrs. Grannis did the driving, because she had sight and he didn't. They gave speeches all over Iowa, telling about the opportunities the libraries were giving the blind people and all, and even in surrounding states. He did a lot to let the people know that the blind were just as able to be educated and be able to hold down jobs as the sighted if they were trained right.

Blas: How were they accepted when they'd go into communities and talk about these things?

Bryant: It depended on the community. Most places, I think, they were really liked. I don't know about some of the department stores, larger stores and all; but mainly they were well received. Some even taught school.

Blas: Some of the blind people taught school?

Bryant: Yes.

Blas: So, you've talked about some of your fondest memories working there. When you look back, what are things that you remember the fondest from your experience at the Department?

Bryant: Well, for one thing, I had good eyesight when I was working. When I began losing my eyesight my daughter-in-law lived out in the country on a farm. My daughter-in-law lived alone and my daughter-in-law said, "Mom, when are you going to find that you can't do this; that you have to get out and get help?" And I said, "Well, if the blind can do it, I can do it." And, I believed that until just a few months ago. I've had two really bad falls. One time my leg was cut clear to the bone and I was going to a clinic in Ames and they wanted to amputate my leg, and that was a hundred-and-three years-old. And I said, "A hundred-and-three, nothing doing. I won't have my leg amputated." And, there was a nurse at Mary Greeley Hospital that knew there was a wind pump for cases like mine, and she got a wind pump on and attached it to the wound in my leg. After she got it attached, there was no feeling. And, there was long plastic hose that went to the machine and they started it on a Friday morning and by noon I looked down at my knee and I said, "Why there's an ant on my knee?" There was a dark thing moving about the size of an ant, and I had guessed then that she looked down for the...She says, "Why, it's full of ants!" And, it was that poison that it was pumping out of that wound.

Blas: Oh, no!

Bryant: They let it run all night, all day Friday and all night Friday night, all day Saturday, all night Saturday night, all day Sunday and Sunday night, and Monday morning they took it out. And, they looked at the wound and decided that it was well enough to heal, and they put me in the nursing home one night. And, it was noisy and I didn't like it, so I asked our head nurse, Mrs. Jacobson, why I couldn't get home health care and she said, "I don't see why not." And, by noon I had that and was back in my own apartment. This nurse came twice a day, at first, to dress my leg and she was there about two months before it was healed. But anyway, that has nothing to do with what you folks aim for, I'm sorry.

Blas: The last time we talked you'd said that you'd done Tai Chi every day, up until recently.

Bryant: Pardon?

Blas: Last time I spoke to you, you said that you were doing Tai Chi.

Bryant: Oh, yes I did. I did Aerobics when I lived at Beaver Dale Estates in Des Moines. And, then I moved to the apartment in Story City to Woodland Village, because my son was doctoring in Ames, and wanted me to. And, they didn't do Aerobics, but they did do Tai Chi and I started Tai Chi. They believe that you need to keep every one of your muscles active, mind and body; and Tai Chi does that.

Well, for one thing, yes, I watched Jeopardy and, please, I can answer a few of the questions. But, whether I can answer them or not it makes me think and that activates the veins in my brain. That's what worries me now; they're taking all...

(Recording cuts off for a few seconds)

30:00

Bryant: And, I just have to live on what my body supplies, and it doesn't supply very much. But, the nurse, one of the nurses here, said not to worry she didn't think I'd lose it all at once. It would be just bits, like, what town is this if you can remember. And, that happens, of course. I can take that. Well, I'm sorry. Are there other questions you want to ask me?

Blas: How have the talking book listening devices changed over the years, during your time in Iowa and at the Department?

Bryant: I was still just getting cassettes. They wanted me to change to the new digital and I said, "At my age, change, it's too hard." And, I didn't feel that I would be capable to make that change, so they kept on with the regular cassettes.

Blas: So, when you first started it was records, and then the records changed to cassettes? Do you know about what time we started with the cassettes?

Bryant: Oh, that's right I hadn't thought about that. I would say probably about the time I left Beaver Dale Estates in Des Moines. That would have been probably 1990, along in there I believe.

Blas: About 1990?

Bryant: I don't know, but near as I can remember.

Blas: When you sent out the records how did you mail those?

Bryant: Just in a mail box. No charge, of course. Write free matter for the blind and when I sent in the list for new books just on an envelope. I wrote it and did not seal it.

Blas: And so, it just went into an envelope?

Bryant: Um-hum.

Blas: How did the records stand up in the mail?

Bryant: Fine.

Blas: They did pretty well?

Bryant: Yes, they did.

Blas: How is it to be a library patron, now until recently?

Bryant: Pardon?

Blas: How is it to be a library patron now and to get library books?

Bryant: I don't have a cassette player and I'm just not able to...Well, I got the Talking Topics, of course, every two months and I could not...I could, with my magnifying glass I could read about them, but I couldn't mark the right place to order them. And, my grand-daughter from Wisconsin was there visiting and she came one day, and she said, "Grandma, let's order some talking books for you." And, we got out the Talking Topics and I said, "If it says excessive profanity, not profanity, excessive language or explicit sex, they're not for me." I never did read trashy books and I'm not about to start now.

Blas: So, you appreciated that they told you that they warned you about those things?

Bryant: And so, she sent in a list of nine books we thought I would like and then a friend here in Perry came one day and said, "Let's make out a list." Another list, because I wasn't getting the books I had ordered. And so, I told her the same thing and she sent in another list of about eight and for some reason. They didn't, I think I got a couple that I ordered, and they were sending me books that I would just listen to enough to know they were not for me, and turned around and sent them back.

Blas: Do you think the books changed much from the time you started at the library?

Bryant: Yes I do. The authors are different. The world is different. It's not better in a lot of ways.

Blas: What do you think the role of the Department is in the world today, compared to when you first started there?

Bryant: What?

Blas: What do you feel the role of the Iowa Department for the blind? How do you feel that it's changed over the years?

Bryant: Well, they're not sending me the books I ordered.

Blas: (Laughter) I mean, in helping people in people's lives, how do you see it? Do you see that it had changed over the years?

Bryant: It depends on the person.

Blas: And, how well do you think that the library and the Department fit into Iowa culture?

Bryant: Well, that's the thing it just depends on the books you order.

Blas: How many years did you work at the Iowa Department for the Blind?

Bryant: Eight years.

Blas: You worked for eight years and that was from?

Bryant: And, I worked eight years at the Carnegie library, here in Perry, before I went down there. So, I was 16 years all together; made a lot of friends.

Blas: And, are you still friends with the people that you met at the Department?

Bryant: Yes, I corresponded until, well, the last few months I couldn't see to write at all. But, we corresponded by telephone. And, when I had to move down here I brought the telephone with me, but it's an old one, cordless. And, my son had programmed several different numbers in there that I frequently use so I wouldn't have to dial, because I can't see that well. So, I hold onto this old telephone, because my son, my only child died almost four years ago with Leukemia.

Blas: I'm sorry. How do you feel that people's attitudes in Iowa about blindness have changed as a result of the Department?

Bryant: I think that the people I've known and all accept it now, and give the blind a chance to do regular jobs.

Blas: How was Mr. Jernigan with the students that would come to the Department?

Bryant: Pardon?

Blas: What was Mr. Jernigan like with the students that would come to the Department?

Bryant: Oh, he was, I think he was like a father. Not an indulgent father, but a very strict and honest father. Do you know Creig Slayton?

Blas: Yes.

Bryant: Well, Creig and his wife Jo Anne were students when I worked for the blind. And, when they had this farewell, well, you know from the tape of the farewell party how many wonderful, wonderful people attended.

Blas: On an average day when you started, how many records would you send out?

Bryant: Oh, that varied with different days. Sometimes I would be glad to work a half hour or an hour extra to be sure and get all that were needing books. One of the board members, and I don't remember his name, but he lived in Northern Iowa, and he used to come down to the meetings and stay all night in the bedrooms at the Commission. And, I have a letter; well, I had a letter from him. He thought my name was O'Bryan, instead of Bryant. And, he never sends requests. He always depended on me to choose something for him. And, I soon learned that he liked western and pioneer books, and that's what I sent him. In this letter he said that he was pleased with the books that Mrs. O'Bryan was sending him.

Blas: So, did each patron then have a record player? Was that supplied from the Department?

Bryant: Yes, they were furnished, and the Telephone Pioneers kept them in good repair.

Blas: And, did the Department supply those record players?

Bryant: Oh yes. No charge.

Blas: And so, we would mail those to them? Oh great! So, on an average day would you say you put out a hundred books or?

Bryant: Some days; just varied with the day's mail.

Blas: When you were working there at the beginning, did you feel like you were part of history? Or what were your feelings about what was being accomplished at the time?

Bryant: Well, it was a waking up point for me, because I didn't realize the blind could do the things they were doing. But, they kept themselves neat, clean and they were just like the rest of us.

Blas: Perfect. I appreciate your time and your story.

Bryant: Well, I am sorry that I, because I am not the person I was when you came to my apartment.

Blas: Probably better!

Tim West: Can I ask you one question?

Bryant: Pardon?

West: I'd like to ask you one question?

Bryant: Surely.

West: Did you have a patron that you got to know or liked, a person that became a friend that was a user of the library?

Bryant: Well, I just don't remember any special.

Blas: The one gentleman that you said liked westerns; who was that?

Bryant: What?

Blas: The one gentleman that liked westerns; that you said he was on the Commission?

Bryant: Oh yeah. I don't remember. He lived in the northern part of Iowa.

Blas: Where did you live in Des Moines? Did you stay at the...

Bryant: Well, when I first went there I got an apartment on 42nd and Grand.

45:00

Bryant: And, I soon got rid of my car because it was a lot easier to get on. I could go to over to Ingersoll and take the city bus. It was a lot easier than driving down and finding a

place to park and all. And so, I made friends with some of the people in the apartments and riding the bus. There was one person. I was 50, about 60, early 60s anyway, and she was older, but we used to like to ride in the morning on the bus. And, she had never married and she had a sister, who was single, and they lived together and they used to go to Europe every summer. One time, when the group from Europe were...Coming to entertain at the Iowa State fair was the Lawrence Welk group, and they offered a bedroom to some of that group and Bobby Burgess. If you know Lawrence Welk, Bobby Burgess is the dancer, the black man...Came and they were such nice people, and those two ladies just kept in touch with them and liked them so much. They were invited to Bobby Burgess and, oh, the girl that he...It was a Christmas wedding and they were invited to that. The reception was beautiful. So, it was interesting to hear stories like that.

Blas: How many people checked out books when you started? How many patrons were there; that checked out books or ordered books?

Bryant: I really have no idea.

Blas: Do you remember what the first book was to go out?

Bryant: No I do not, but it was the regular disk book, of course.

Blas: Do you remember any funny or interesting incidents dealing with patrons that come to mind?

Bryant: I really don't. See, my memory is not as good as it used to be, I'm sorry to say.

Blas: I think you're doing great!

Tim West: You did fantastic!

Blas: Do you have any questions for us or anything that you'd like to say?

Bryant: Well, I'd like to...Now, I have friends that take the Des Moines paper and the Prairie Chief, and I hope there will be a nice write-up about the party you're planning. I'd like to get a copy of that. I hope it's very successful. I was one; you know that I was one that went to the party for the ones over a hundred that were still, that was honored by the library.

Blas: Yeah, I've seen pictures. I remember you showing me that picture of you with all the patrons that are over a hundred years-old.

Tim West: I took the picture.

Blas: I have attempted to contact Carolyn Schumann as well. And, I'm going to let her know about any celebrations that go on.

Bryant: Well Carolyn, she was young, of course. She was 18 when she started, and she just fit right in with the rest of us. But, she didn't work there, I think, only about three years and then she started working in banks.

Blas: What was her role? What did she do there?

Bryant: Pardon?

Blas: What was her job there at the Department?

Bryant: Mrs. Grannis' private secretary. She lives at, oh, I gave you her address and telephone number. She's looking forward to meeting you.

Blas: Oh, have you talked to her?

Bryant: Oh yes. And, I told her that the party was to be in July not May, and she plans to come to the party.

Blas: Excellent! I've left her a couple of messages. I hope to talk to her soon.

Bryant: Good!

Tim West: Well, thank you.

Bryant: Well, thank you. I hope it was worth your time. You put a lot of time and effort into this, so I hope it...

Blas: Well, we appreciate all the time and effort that you put into starting the library. I feel that that has made a difference in many people's lives over the years.

Bryant: Well, it was nice to know a lot of those students. There's a lawyer in Des Moines, he might be retired now,

that was a young man going to Drake, I believe. And, he was just a normal young man, and he went hunting with a friend and was accidentally shot in the face. And, of course, he lost his eyesight completely and he was very, very bitter. He didn't want anything to do with the talking books at first. But anyway, Mr. Jernigan's influence, I think, talked him into going on to school and finishing at Drake. There were a lot of the blind people and other people who put in Braille the text books and all and they helped him graduate. And, he is a lawyer, or was. I think he retired, now. I don't remember his name.

And, then there was a young girl, she was in college and was engaged to be married. And, she was out with her fiancé one night and they drove over a hill and didn't see the approaching car and had a head-on collision and she lost her eyesight. And, she was such a pretty girl. Her fiancé didn't stand by her; he couldn't take it, her blindness. And, the last I knew she was still going to school, but she was going to marry a man from India. She didn't know that his skin was black, and it wouldn't have mattered anyway. She was a lovely girl. But, blindness has changed a lot of lives, of course. And, these libraries are helping the blind feel more like sighted people. They knew that they can do things if they just work at it.

Blas: I bet that feels pretty good to know that you were part of that.

Bryant: Yes it is. And Creig and, well, she was Jo Anne Jones; they used to stop by her...They got books and visited with me and Jo Anne Jones had a sighted mother. And, Jo Anne got a job in a doctor's clinic in Iowa City, and she and

her mother went to Iowa City to find an apartment for Jo Anne to live in while she worked there. And, when Jo Anne came back I said, "Tell me about your apartment, Jo Anne." And, she told me, in detail, about her mother and told her about it and Jo Anne says, "But, you know, she said that the kitchen is yellow and I don't like yellow." (Laughter) She didn't know what yellow was, because she couldn't see. And I said, "Well, Jo Anne, I have been renting so many years and I always had a blue kitchen." I says, "Some rental places I went to it wasn't blue, but I still used my blue things and you can do that way with yours."

And, she and Creig were married. I went to the wedding. When they had this farewell banquet for Mrs. Grannis, they were there. I got to see them again.

Blas: It sounds like you were a part of a lot of people's lives that were dealing with becoming blind over the years.

Bryant: Well, in a way I was. And, this Mabel Nading that taught the typing and Braille Writer, she was invited to dip the punch at...Mrs. Grannis' and Bob Shopshar were married in Alexandra, Washington D.C.; he worked for the government. And, she was invited to dip the punch and I was invited to cut the cake. So, we both went to the wedding and the reception, and a few days afterwards, Mabel Nading was still working, and we had to go back to Des Moines. And, when we went to get on the plane, Dulles Airport, I think, they said, "Will you be responsible for her?" She had the white cane (Laughter). And I said, "Well, I would be glad to, but she's more used to flying than I am" (Laughter). I said, "She'll probably have to take care of me;" because she had been to Hawaii and different places in

airplanes. Mabel had a cat named Fraidy; Fraidy Cat (Laughter).

Blas: So, it sounds to me like the Department kind of changed what it meant to be blind in Iowa. Do you think that that was true or what do you think about that?

Bryant: Changed what?

Blas: That the Iowa Department for the Blind kind of changed what it meant for people to be blind.

Bryant: Well, I think certainly they found out it was a good place to go for help and be helped. There was a young man, and his wife and his mother came in one day. They were from, I think, Fort Dodge, up there, and he was a farmer; raised hogs and corn, regular farmer. And, he was losing his eyesight, and his wife was a school teacher and I really felt sorry for them.

1:00:00

Bryant: They were a nice young couple. But, he went on and learned Braille there and passed. Got his license to, wait a minute; he got his license to, in real-estate to sell things. So, you know when you can see the results of these people that come; like the man that was shot in the face and was so bitter. It is good to see that they can change and live with blindness.

Blas: Excellent! Well, thank you so much, Dorothy. It's been a pleasure talking to you today. I enjoyed our

conversations on the phone, and when I came and visited last time and you showed me the pictures.

Bryant: I have to tell you one thing. Several years ago they have a three-quarter century banquet here every spring, and the Perry newspaper sponsors it. And, I always said I didn't want to go. I wasn't that old and when I moved here.

Wanita Hicks wanted me to go because she knew I'd be the queen, the oldest one there. So, I did go just to please her, and my son and daughter-in-law were with me, too. And so, I was the oldest one there. They named me the queen at the banquet and gave me a corsage. After it was over, I said to my son, "Well, I'm surprised they didn't ask me to say a few words." And my son said, "Mother, they knew if they got you started talking you'd never stop" (Laughter). That's the way I've been today; got me started. But, I've enjoyed meeting you folks, and Lance, and I hope you will let me know how the party comes out.

Blas: Absolutely!

1:03:30

(End of Recording)

Beverly Tietz

2-18-10